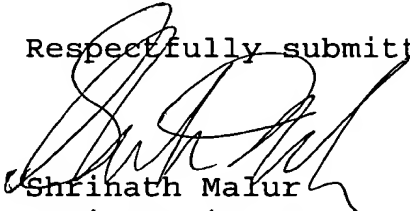


REMARKS

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 5-17 have been added. Accordingly, claims 5-17 are currently pending in the application.

Examination is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Shrinath Malur
Registration No. 34,663
Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR
1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
Date: November 13, 2001